

On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

Volume 9, Number 2

THE ST. LOUIS ISSUE

Welcome to On The Purple Circuit!

We exist to promote GLQBT theatre and performance throughout the world and invite you to join in that endeavor!

This is the St. Louis Issue which is dedicated to The Purple Circuit theatre companies in that city: Joan Lipkin's That Uppity Theatre Company; Scott Miller's New Line Theatre; and Christopher Jackson's C.J. Productions. In addition to their rich history of bringing alternative theatre and performance to St. Louis, these companies all produced out of the St. Marcus Theatre. They have now lost their space when the congregation voted to turn the theatre back into a church basement. While there may be charges of homophobia and any loss of a theatre space is deplorable, these companies are strong and looking for alternative space in St. Louis. If you can help please do so!! Joan has been acknowledged by the state of Missouri (the youngest person so honored) for her contribution to the arts and she has brought many performers to the city; Scott Miller in addition to doing great Sondheim has brought much Gay music and plays as well and Chris has composed and produced great musicals of his own work. Bravo to these Great organizations and we all hope they will be able to continue to produce and create GL theatre and performance in St. Louis!

We mourn the passing of Gay pioneer, author and screenwriter Dale Jennings, known as the Rosa Parks of Gay rights movement when this co-founder of the Mattachine Society challenged the LAPD on entrapment in 1952 and won! A Memorial Service will be at ONE Institute & Archives, 909 West Adams, LA, on GL Pride Day, June 25, 2000 at 2 PM

We also acknowledge the passing of the great Gay actor John Gielgud. On a more cheerful note kudos to theatre buff and founder of SAGE, Eldon Murray on his election to the Milwaukee County Senior Hall Of Fame.

Some personnel changes to report. AD Richard Israel and Managing Director Jill Moore will be leaving Celebration Theatre. Richard and Jill have done some great work during their year at CT. Ken Werther, the longtime publicist extraordinaire for CT is also leaving-he has a full time position at The Ahmanson Theatre in LA. Best to all of them!

Another leaving but involuntary is that of San Diego producer Charles Lago who due to the unfairness of the immigration laws for same sex binational couples cannot marry his partner Chip Snell and stay in the US. Charles has done wonderful work both in San Diego, Palm Springs, Los Angeles and up to San Francisco in touring and developing shows. He will be relocating to Vancouver and starting a theatre there and will be back we hope as soon as possible. Thanks Charles and Bon Voyage! Tim Miller has also stepped down as co-AD at Highways to tour his Glory Box and work for the issue it raises-the changing of the INS laws. Love Knows No Borders is the organization working on these changes. Contact them at (323) 526-2915, LoveknowsNoBorders@yahoo.com, www.loveknowsnoborders.homepage.com.

There is an important issue that has come up in the community that of Paramount selling out the GL community and their GL employees by giving Laura Schlessinger a TV show. This so-called doctor is an enemy of our community and others spewing hate. You would expect

to find her on one of these obscure cable companies in the hinterland but Paramount wants to give her a mainstream audience. Many advertisers have already withdrawn their sponsorship so the show if it happens may not make Paramount the big bucks they think it will. An interesting side-issue is how GLAAD once again has changed its position and jumped on the Dump Schlessinger bandwagon. Before the independent movement started, GLAAD had its meeting with Paramount and never asked for a cancellation-they meekly asked for some differing point of view on the show. Now they act like they started the whole movement!!

The Purple Circuit is undertaking changes. We are currently exploring website possibilities with the help of John Glines and The Glines and some generous offers are being considered. Please give us your input. We also would like to cut costs by putting OTPC online or sent by email in the future. I am also in the process of sending out questionnaires to the theatres and producers on The Purple Circuit to update The Directory of Venues by the end of the Summer, 2000. I thank publicists and others who send information on shows or comps to shows. I appreciate them but due to space limitations in OTPC now I can usually cover shows with a direct GLBT content though we can be more flexible for the hotline at (818) 953-5072

I came across an interesting item in The Lambda Book Review about a list of 100 Lesbian and Gay Books that Changed Our Lives chosen and compiled by Jesse Monteagudo. It is revealing that none of the books mentioned was a play. This may substantiate Francine Trevens contention that most people don't read plays, they need to see them. I'd like to compile a list of 100 Plays That Have Changed Our Lives. I invite you to send me some of your choices either by mail and email at Purplecir@aol.com and I'll list them in the next issue.

This Issue we are adding a new column on Comedy, a growing part of our culture. Thanks to Joan Lipkin, Victoria Kirby, Eric Bentley, Howard Casner, Jerry Semas, Ken Werther, Victor Bumbalo, John Glines, Garry Allan Breul, Shelly Weiss, Marian Jones, Kim Garfield, Scott Miller, Jason Stuart, Ronnie Larsen, Karen Horwitz, David Zak and others for sending material for this issue and our subscribers who started or renewed. Please continue to financially support us by filling out the coupon and sending a check today! I thank my Associate Editor Jim Russell and Sally Barron for getting yet one more issue out.

Due to illness, there will be no Way Off Broadway By The Bay in this issue by our faithful San Francisco columnist Tom W Kelly. He reports improvement and promises a column next time. Victor Bumbalo reports that The Chesley Foundation has awarded its Lifetime Achievement award to theatre Pioneer Jeffrey Weiss. More details in our next issue.

A lot happening this Summer around the country with Festivals and Pride events ,protests at the GOP convention, The People's Convention in Los Angeles where progressives will meet the week prior to the Democratic Convention and protests there as well. In the Fall it will be Oscar Wilde's birthday Oct 16 and the centennial of his death, Nov 30, 2000 when events will happen around the world. Artists are in the forefront of political movements.

Have a political and artistic Summer and Happy Pride,
Bill Kaiser, Editor

ON THE BOARDS

*Note: Descriptions are based on press releases or personal knowledge. * Indicates a current or future show, information subject to change, shows may be extended so check them out and remember to see a Gay or Lesbian show tonight.*

The Abdication by Ruth Wolff, about Queen Christianna, Open Fist, LA, Jan.-Mar. 2000.

***Accidental Dancers** by Stephen Ludwig, a married novelist discovers that coming out of the closet is only the beginning, Long Beach Playhouse, Long Beach, CA, opened June 9, 2000; 562-494-1616.

Adam's Wedding by James Rosenfield, a romantic comedy, Wings, NYC, Feb.-Mar. 2000.

The All Souls Trilogy by Nick Salamone, a brilliant trio of plays: All Soul's Day, Riffs and Credos and Whale Watchers, Glaxa Studios, LA, Apr.-May 2000.

Altered Perceptions: Queer Youth in the Year 2000 with young Alaskans, Out North, Anchorage, Feb. 2000.

America's Most Wanted with Michael Caldwell, Michael Erger, Bob Runnock, Rachel Winfree, Wendy Worthington, so funny it's criminal, Angels Theatre, LA, May 2000.

And Then There Was Nun by Bruce W Gilray and Richard T Witter, a super camp mystery with Kevin Dulude and other celebrities, Palos Verde Players, Torrance CA, Mar.-May 2000.

Angels In America by Tony Diversinary Theatre, San Diego, Mar.-Apr 2000.

Another American: Asking And Telling with Marc Wolf, the Milton at Studio Theatre, Washington, DC, Apr.-May 2000.

Armchair America with Tom Bondi and Mark Holt, the recline of Western civilization, Dixon Place, NYC, Mar. 2000.

Attic by Sam Sommer, a lifetime of memories, bits and pieces of a family's life, Wings, NYC, Feb.-Mar. 2000.

***Bare** by Brian Kirst, a dramatic portrait of unrestricted passions with barebacking the issue, Bailiwick, Chicago, opened May 24, 2000; 773-883-1090.

Beautiful Thing by Jonathan Harvey, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, Mar.-May 2000.

Beds by Leon Katz, a world premiere of a trio of plays: Dear Bosie, with Oscar Wilde, Nurturing Alice, with Ms. Toklas, and The Wedding Night with Oskar Kokoschka, Steller Adler, Hollywood, Apr.-May 2000.

Besame Mucho with Monica Palacios, Circle Rising at Zephyr Theatre, Hollywood, LA, Feb. 2000.

The Bible Belt And Other Accessories with Paul Bonin-Rodriguez, poignant funny coming out of small town Texas "sissy boy", The MAC, Dallas, Mar. 2000.

***The Big Hoover** by Antay S. Bilgutay, a screwball comedy about Gay men, Bea Arthur and the quest for love, OutWard Spiral, Minneapolis, opens Nov. 17, 2000; 612-343-3390.

A Book Of Harsh Geometry with Victor Lodato, an intriguing solo, Circle Rising at Zephyr, Hollywood, Feb, 2000.

Boy Meets Boy by Bill Solly and Donald Ward, a concert version, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, Feb-Mar, 2000.

Brighton Beach Scumbags by Steven Berkoff Black IRISH Productions, LA, Mar.-Apr. 2000.

Broken Tale Of Mouse by Amy Pivar, Freda Rosen, Patricia Chilsen and Paula Kimper, Wings, NYC, May 2000.

Brothers Tellin with Syd Rushing, Solo Festival at 2100 Square Feet, LA, Apr. 2000.

Bruce Vilanch: Almost Famous with Bruce Vilanch, Westbeth Theatre Center, NYC, May-June 2000.

***Buddha Blues** with Ron Jones, a true story of one man growing up in San Francisco, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opens July 21, 2000; 415-861-8972.

***Can't Get Enough**, explore life with Gay Goodenough, Third Stage, Burbank CA, ongoing; 323-664-9150.

Cologne with Tony Abatamarco, Long Island, the '60s, Tiffany Theatre, W Hollywood, Apr.-May 2000.

***Confessions Of A Songbird Strangler** by Gabriel Todd, Jon Sims Center, San Francisco, opened May 12, 2000; 415-554-0402.

***Corpus Christi**, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opens October, 2000 to launch the 6th Pride Season titled Body And Soul; 415-861-8972.

Cowboys I, a new Gay musical by Clint Jefferies, and music by Paul L Johnson, Wings, NYC, Apr.-May 2000.

Dear John by Marcia Cebulka, a bittersweet comedy about two best friends-a Gay man and a Straight woman, Moving Arts, LA, Mar. 2000.

***Debunking Love** by Prince Gomolvilas, a sparkling comedy looking for love in all the wrong races!, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, previews Nov. 8, 2000 and opens Nov. 18, 2000; 415-861-8972.

Denial Of The Fittest with Judith Sloan, excavations of untold truths and other outbursts, The Quentin Crisp Theatre, San Diego, Mar.-Apr. 2000.

***Deporting The Divas** by Guillermo Reys, Quentin Crisp Theatre, San Diego, opens June 15, 2000; 619-692-4204.

Devil's Consort by Gene Franklin Smith, a dark comedy about a famous brother and sister and an erotic photography involved in the murder of a young composer who has slept with all of them, Theatre at St. Stephen's Church, Hollywood, Mar.-Apr. 2000.

A Different Voice: Solos in Harmony III with Kevin Fabian as a Gay man inspired by Mrs. Peel of The Avengers and The Deposition with Paul Schackman as a tough as nails transsexual, The Lex, Hollywood, Mar.-May 2000.

Dirty Secrets by Joe Marshall, a controversial piece about a seemingly happy Gay couple and the man who comes between them, Quentin Crisp Theatre, San Diego, May 2000.

***Down South** by Doug Field, a hit comedy, Flight Theatre, Hollywood, ongoing; 323-960-8511.

Edward II by Christopher Marlowe, Whitefire Theater, Sherman Oaks CA, Apr.-May 2000.

***Endless Night, Sweet Delight** by Howard Casner (PC's Chicago columnist), a romantic drama about a young man from Chicago who arrives at the home of a rural Gay couple, Bailiwick, Chicago, opened June 11, 2000; 773-883-1090.

***Enough About Me** with Varla Jean Merman, an unauthorized autobiography, Chelsea Playhouse, NYC, ongoing; 212-307-4100.

Eric Seppala Who? with Eric Seppala, a journey with cabaret fave through teen angst, love and Barbra Streisand, Celebration Theatre, LA, May 2000.

The Fabulous Lypsinka Show with Lypsinka, The Village, LA, March 2000.

Fabulous Ride Into The Unknown with Bruce Ward, percolating with inventive comedy, HERE, NYC, June 2000.

Fractured Greeks by The VORTEX Workshop, twisted Greek mythology, VORTEX Rep, Austin, May 2000.

Freshman Year Sucks with Rob Nash, serial ensemble theatre performed solo, Emerson College, April 2000.

***Get Used To It** by Tom Wilson Weinberg, a smashing musical event, Buffalo United Artists, Buffalo, opening June 2, 2000.

***Girl Meets Girl** by Maddy Alexander and Sally Stover, a new comedy about falling in and out of love, Caryn Horwitz at St. Genesius, West Hollywood, opens June 15, 2000; 800-965-4827.

***Glory Box** with Tim Miller, his latest tour de force over the inequity of INS laws toward Gay binational couples, Highways, Santa Monica, Feb, 2000; Echo Theatre, Portland, Apr. 2000; Open Circle Theater, Seattle & Manbites Dog Theater, Durham, May, 2000; Kerr Cultural Center, Scottsdale, June 10; Seven Stages, Atlanta, June 15, 1-404-523-7647; Institute for Contemporary Art, Mardi Gras Fest, London, June 25, 2000; Quentin Crisp Theatre, San Diego, July 22-23, 2000; 619-692-4202.

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials Of Oscar Wilde, Madison Repertory Theatre, Madison, Jan.-Feb. 2000.

***A Gravity Fable** with Susan Maxwell, Jon Sims Center, San Francisco, opens May 26, 2000; 415-554-0402.

The Harvest by Perry Brass, a play about two men desperately in love with each other, one a hunted humanoid cloned for his organs

and the other a sexual renegade who will kill for him, Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation, NYC, Apr. 2000.

***The Harvey Milk Show** by Dan Pruitt and Patrick Hutchinson, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened May 20, 2000; 415-861-8972.

Heaving Shadows at The Skin Show conceived by Kerthy Fix, follow Gay hustler, Hitchhiker and Trucker through an odyssey of fantasy, dream and private history, VORTEX, Austin, Mar.-Apr. 2000

Heroine with Melanie DuPuy, two super heroes battle for the control of a woman's destiny, The 3rd Street Theater, LA, Mar.-Apr. 2000, directed by Michael Kearns

How To Ruin Love by Jake Jay Clark, Circle Rising at the Zephyr Theatre, LA, Feb. 2000.

How To Shoot A Porno by Ronnie Larsen, reprise of a new comedy based on his hit film and featuring the author not to be missed as the fabulous Chi Chi LaRue, Zephyr Theatre, LA, April 2000.

Hysterical Blindness and Other Southern Tragedies That Have Plagued My Life Thus Far with Leslie Jordan, Richmond Triangle Players, Richmond, Apr.-May 2000.

Imitation Of Imitation Of Life by TWEED Fractured Classics, Theater TWEED, NYC, Jan.-Feb. 2000.

***Interview With A Degenerate** with John Fleck, ASK Theater Projects Common Ground Festival at UCLA, LA June 25, 2000; 310-478-3200.

I Reject These Labels with LeVan D Hawkins, an artist striving toward the truth bridging the races, sexualities and religions, Highways, Santa Monica, April 2000.

Jackie Beat Is ... A Whole Lotta' Love! with Jackie Beat, Horwitz and Larsen at Zephyr, LA, Apr. 2000.

***Ladies And Gentlemen** by Emma Messerole, the story of Anne Hindle, an 1890s male impersonator, Outward Spiral, Minneapolis, opened Apr. 14, 2000; 612-343-3390.

***The Laramie Project** conceived by Moises Kaufman and Tectonic Theater Project, a performance about the murder of Matthew Shepard through interviews with townspeople of Laramie, Denver Center Theater, Denver, Mar-Apr, & Union Square Theatre, NYC, ongoing; 212-505-0770.

***Lesbian Affairs** by Judith Schray, a live soap opera of love, lust and longing, four new episodes, WOW Cafe Theater, NYC, ongoing; 212-613-3004.

***Letters From Afar** by Paul Harris, a 35 year romantic relationship of letters between two men, Unity Festival, NYC, Summer 2000

Letters Home by Dee Jae Cox, a dynamic and powerful drama of a Lesbian military witch-hunt, The Ivy Theatre, Hollywood, Mar.-Apr. 2000.

Love! Valour! Compassion! by Terrence McNally, New Conservatory, San Francisco, Jan.-Mar. 2000.

***Lulu And Other Heavenly Creatures** by Rachel Short, Jon Sims Center, San Francisco, opens May 19, 2000; 415- 554-0402.

Making Porn by Ronnie Larsen, smash hit about the porn industry, Wilton Playhouse, Wilton Manors FL, Apr. 2000.

Markings Of The Soul with Kerry O. Burns, a straight brother tells of his dealing with his Gay brother, art and AIDS, CSPS, Cedar Rapids, May 2000.

***Martin Yesterday** by Brad Fraser, another sizzling play by Canada's enfant terrible, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, previews Feb. 14, 2001 and opens Feb. 24, 2001; 415-861-8972.

Message To Michael by Tim Pinckney, a sexy well-crafted tale about normal people in normal situations!, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, Mar.-May 2000.

Mind Salad by Doug Motel, the story of Mick Calendar, a struggling bi-sexual screenwriter, Celebration Theatre, LA, May 2000.

***MotherSON** with Jeffrey Solomon, a solo playing the Gay man and his Jewish mother, Bailiwick Pride Series, Chicago, opened June 8, 2000; 773-883-1090.

***Naked Boys Singing** conceived by Robert Schrock, Actors Playhouse, NYC, ongoing; 212-239-6200, BienVenue Theatre, Houston, opening July 7, 2000; 713-426-2626.

***Nasty Little Secrets** by Lanie Robertson, West Coast premiere about Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell, Theatre/Theater, LA, opens July 13, 2000; 323-871-0210.

New York Or Bust with the Kinsey Sicks America's favorite dragapella beautyshop quartet, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, Mar.-Apr. soon in NYC.

***A Night In Vegas** by Joe Marshall, Phoenix, opens June 9, 2000; 623-937-2660.

***Oscar and Speranza** by C. Robert Holloway, a drama about Oscar Wilde and his mother who used the pen name Speranza in her youth, Trumpet Vine Theatre Company, Arlington VA, opens Oct. 27, 2000.

The Other Side Of The Closet by Edward Roy, a theatre-in-education play about teens, tolerance, peer pressure, homophobia and much more, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, March 2000.

***Party** by David Dillon, finale of the Pride 2000 Season, Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, opens Aug. 27, 2000.

Personal Instrument by David Hanbury, a steamy and supercharged journey of a Gay rocker through the sex of music and the music of sex, The Theater Offensive, Boston, Mar.-Apr. 2000.

Planting Roses by David H.Vowell, a Lesbian returns home after her mother's death and bonds with her father, Two Roads Theatre, LA, Apr.-May 2000.

***Preaching To The Perverted** with Holly Hughes, a tour of the dark side of democracy, Baltimore Theatre Project, Baltimore, Feb-Mar, 2000; P.S. 122, NYC, Apr.-May 2000, Woolly Mammoth, Washington DC, opens Oct 30, 2000; 202-393-3939.

***Project Alice** with The Fabulous Monsters, a slick touring version of their hit Alice In Wonderland reconstruct, Madrid Theatre, Canoga Park CA, May, 2000, Village at Ed Gould Plaza, Hollywood, June 2-3, 2000; 323-860-7300, more touring to follow.

The Ramona Roses with Janet Borrus, inspired by the year she spent as a sub teacher teaching gym and leadership to teen mothers, The Village, Hollywood, Apr. 2000.

Randy's House by John M Clum, Arkansas Tech Theater Dept and Gayla Student Group, Mar.-Apr 2000.

***Relative Comfort** by Gina Schien, a comedy about a bouncer, her ex-lover and her replacement and a redefinition of family, Bailiwick, Chicago, opened June 10, 2000; 773-883-1090.

***Return To Caffe Cino** created by Trauma Flintstone, an evening of 5 terse one-acts invoking the spirit of the early Gay Theatre scene in NYC's lower Eats Side by Lanford Wilson, Tom Eyan, Terrence McNally, George Birmisa and Robert Patrick, Jon Sims Center, San Francisco, May & June 2000; 415-554-0402.

***Re: LAX: Stories from An Airport** by Laura Black, Larry Dean Harris, Amy Heidish, G Bruce Smith and Monica Trasandes, one-acts set at LA's airport, 2100 Square Feet, LA, opened May 12, 2000; 323-666-6086.

Salad Of The Bad Cafe with Peggy Shaw, Lois Weaver and Stacy Makishi, a hilarious treatise on unrequited love inspired by McCuller's novel and the lives of Tennessee Williams and Yukio Mishima, The Theater Offensive, Boston, Mar.-Apr. 2000

Schtick! with Sara Felder, a provocative comedy about a cross-dressing vaudevillian circa 1900 and a modern performance artist in love with Yiddish, The Village At Ed Gould Plaza, Hollywood, May 2000.

Season by Melanie Marnich, Hypothetically Speaking at 14 St Y, NYC, May 2000.

***The Secret Of The Old Queen** by Timothy Cope, a spoof of the Hardy boy mysteries, New Conservatory Theatre Center and Kaliyuga Arts, San Francisco, opens June 10, 2000; 415-861-8972.

Seven Days by Laura Black, a Lesbian comedy set on a survival camping trip, Hudson Theatre, Hollywood, Apr. 2000.

The Shadow Box by Michael Cristofer, Rude Guerilla Theatre, Santa Ana, CA, Feb.-Mar. 2000.

Shirts & Skin with Tim Miller, Williams College, Williamstown MA, Apr. 2000.

Shopping And Fucking by Mark Ravenhill, the smash Brit play about addiction, dependency and human needs, Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles, Mar.-May 2000.

***Snakebit** by David Marshall Grant, a clever, wise comedy and modern friendship put to the test, Leigh Fortier at Coast Playhouse, opened May 28, 2000; 310-289-2999; New Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco, previews start Jan 24, 2001 and opens Feb 3, 2001; 415-861-8972.

***Something Cloudy, Something Clear** by Tennessee Williams, Blue Sphere Alliance at The Lex, Hollywood, opened May 5, 2000; 323-957-578

The Stories We Buried with Beverly Bronson, Lisa Gluckin and Sharon Jane Smith, speaking the truth is the art of my generation, WOW Cafe Theater, NYC, May-June 2000.

***Straight** with David Schmader, a conversion comedy, Highways, Santa Monica, June 9-17, 2000; 310-315-1459.

***Straight As A Line** by Luis Alfaro, a quirky intelligent new AIDS genre play, Playwrights Arena, LA, reopens Summer 2000; 323-960-7756.

Strange Light by Cindy Cooper, women, love, memory, Women at Wings, NYC, Mar.-Apr. 2000.

***The Sum Of Us** by David Stevens, Lambda Players, Sacramento, opened May 19, 2000; 562-432-5382.

***Sweet The Way I Like It** by Lisa Heard, an ex-girlfriend's arrival triggers a shift of alliances among a group of women, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, June 15-16, 2000; 718-832-0018.

Tonight The Clothes Stay On with Tod Macfusky, a Gay man's search for love, respect and acceptance through Broadway songs originally performed by women sung by one of the original cast members of Naked Boys Singing, Celebration Theatre, LA, May 2000.

***Torch Song Trilogy** by Harvey Fierstein, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened June 3, 2000; 415-861-8972.

Travelogue with Chris Burnside, based on the 7 week no-itinerary random drive he took with his significant other in 1997, Highways, Santa Monica, Apr. 2000.

***Two Men Losing Their Minds** by Michael Moss, Moving Arts at LATC, Los Angeles, opened May 19, 2000; 213-622-8906.

Two Truths & A Lie with Lauren Crux, Women's Work Performance Series, San Francisco, Mar 2000.

***The Velocity Of Gary (Not His Real Name)** by James Still, a powerfully moving play about a young hustler learning too much too fast, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, previews Sept 6 and opens Sept .9, 2000; 415-861-8972.

***Visiting Mr.Green** by Jeff Baron, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, previews begin Aug. 10 and opens Aug. 19, 2000; 415-861-8972.

West Carolina Tobacco by Jerrold Rabushka, a funny, dramatic show with tobacco making big news, Ragged Blade, St. Louis, Mar.-Apr. 2000.

***Xena Live!, Episode 1: Double Your Pleasure** by Claudia Allen, great fun, babes fighting, Xena out of the subtext, About Face Theatre, Chicago, ongoing; 773-549-7943.

***You Look For Me** by Paul Harris, a 35 year friendship between two men, HERE, NYC, opened June 15, 2000; 212-647-0202.

THEATRE BITS by Bill Kaiser

Anchorage: Gene Dugan and Jay Brause were the impetus for xSight to train a troupe of GLBQ and Allied youth which delivered a knockout performance about the issues facing teenagers. Bravo! Out North is the first non-profit in Alaska to receive a grant from the Diana, Princess Of Wales Memorial Fund (US) to set up a Media Arts Lab for Alaskan youth to create a video on the meaning of family, values and traditions .

Boston: The Theater Offensive launches first-ever full season with two Boston premieres: Peggy Shaw, Lois Weaver and Stacy Makishi in Salad Of The Bad Cafe and Personal Instrument by David Hanbury and Juliann Adiastris 617-542-4214.

Brooklyn: The 8th Bi-Annual Brooklyn Women's Performance Festival was hosted by the Brooklyn Arts Exchange in March 2000.

The Festival included Twenty Movements For Mother with Joanna Rotkin, Mimi's Wedding with Mina Hartong, Every Hotel TV Plays On with Johanna S. Meyer and Alexandra Hartmann, and Wives and Gross National Happiness with Jen Mitas.Plus art, film and Lesbian workshops, 718-832-0018.

Chicago: Bailiwick presented its Pride 2000 Trailblazer Awards to Mark Tewksbury, Claudia Allen, Lawrence Bonner, Michael C Cook and Marie Kuda at a gala benefit in May, 2000. Kudos to all especially Claudia and Lawrence!

The Bailiwick also created a Lesbian Theater Initiative to increase the visibility of Lesbians on stage in Chicago. A benefit in April,' The First Annual All- Girl Review of theater, comedy, song and celebration was held and summer shows will include Holly Hughes in Preaching To The Perverted and the comedy Relative Comfort by Australian Gina Schien, 773-883-1090.

Cleveland: Cleveland Public Theatre announces its 18th New Plays Festival. Check their website at www.clevelandartists.net/cpt or contact Clyde Simpon, Director of The Festival at cpt@en.com (Attn:New Plays Festival).

Hollywood: The Village presented a Gay Spirit Conference, in May 2000, with Mark Thompson, Will Roscoe and Christian de la Huerta. A highlight of the conference was David Cohen's solo show about Walt Whitman, Songs Of Love and Songs Of Death. Many great events happen at the Village including We Have A Lot To Cover with Kathy Griffin, a raw evening of comedy and storytelling and the ongoing Senior Village Players which meets every Monday. 323-860-5830.

Theatre Of Note presented Tony Kushner's Pulitzer-prize winning A Bright Room Called Day in April-May 2000.

Los Angeles: Richard Israel, the outgoing AD of Celebration Theatre is currently starring in a hit production of Sondheim's Merrily We Roll Along at The West Coast Ensemble Bravo to Richard for all he has done and will do in the future!

The Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance presented its 10th annual show Uptown Cabaret 2000 under the fabulous direction of Ken Kane. The talent was exceptional from the singers, Jason Stuart's comedy and even Shoshana Henri as the fab Dolly Wilde quoting her famous uncle!

The Ladies Of The Corridor by Dorothy Parker marked the return of Geo Hartley's Theatre Geo to the local theatre scene. The show starred Patty McCormack and Wendy Worthington among others.

A.S.K. Theater Projects will present its Common Ground 2000 Festival June 23-25, 2000 at UCLA. Included will be a Theatre Fair for 99-seat theatres to promote their work and a Theatre Slam for writers to read new works. Performances by John Fleck, Ruben Martinez, Mabou Mines, Banter, Bottom's Dream and Rosanna Gamson/World Wide, Events are free-for reservations call 310-478-9ask

Madison: Tap-It/New Works presented Changing Faces: "Performances About Identity in March with theater and music from the works of Jude Narita, Jan Wheaton Donna Peckett and Danielle Dresden, 608-244-2938, tapit@mailbag.com

Montreal: OUT Productions website www.out.ca is operational for The Pink Network and for phone inquiries 514-529-9550

New Brunswick, NJ: The Diva project 2000 curated by Ted Sod happened in May at the George Street Playhouse featuring Reno, Christina Anderson, Carmelita Tropicana and Trazana Beverley, women on the verge creating on the edge solo performances!

New York: The Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation presented a series of play readings in April, 2000. Among them was a fab reading of Perry Brass' futuristic The Harvest based on his novel directed by Peter McLean. <http://www.leslie-lohman.org> 212-673-7007.

Dixon Place in April, 2000 presented Blister Me with Sarah Michson and Julie Atlas Muz, Greg Walloch's Talent Show, writers like Lisa Lerner reading from her novel Just Like Beauty and Ken Bullock with his newest work in progress. Coming in July 2000 is HOT!

The NYC Celebration of Queer Culture is opening July 6 with Holly Hughes, Reno and John Fleck. Theatre, Music, Dance, Poetry,

Fiction, Performance Art and Homoeroticism for the whole family!
212-532-1546, www.dixonplace.org

Upstart Theatre Company has a trio of ADs: Gian Di Donna, Paul Harris and James J.O'Grady. They begin their season with Harris 'You Look For Me followed in the Fall by Di Donna's The Chi. For info call 212-265-6845

Omaha: SNAP! Productions 2000 season includes Elegies For Angels, Punks And Raging Queens Mar 9-25; The Twilight Of The Golds For June 15-July 1 And A Perfect Ganesh for Sept 21-Oct 7, 402-453-5165.

Pasadena: The AIDS Service Center is doing benefit nights at The Lion King opening in September at Pantages Theatre in LA.. Knightsbridge Theatre did a fine production of Oscar Wilde's A Woman Of No Importance in Apr.-Mar. 2000.

Provincetown: Marjorie Conn presents the second annual Provincetown Fringe Festival June 26- Labor Day, 2000. Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt: A Love Story and Gerty Gerty Gerty Stein is Back Back Back with Pat Bond are back but there are slots for visiting artists. For info: 212-582-3533 or connartists@yahoo.com

St.Louis: New Line Theatre has created an e-mail subscription discussion list about Gay Theatre and Gay theatre issues for people around the world. To subscribe send an empty email to gaytheatre-subscribe@onelist.com. or you can sign up by visiting www.onelist.com/community/gaytheatre

San Antonio: Jump Start hosted a tribute in May: Baileywick, a celebration of the work and life of their founding director Steve Bailey

San Francisco: LAVA 2000 awards were presented in March, 2000. Special Legends of Women's Music were presented to Margie Adam, Alix Dobkin, June Millington Holly Near, Barbara Price, Rhiannon, Linda Tillery, Mary Watkins and Cris Williamson.

Santa Monica: Highways had two big benefits. First in Feb was Love Fest with Luis Alfaro, Guitier Boy, Phranc, and John Fleck among many others. Highways celebrated their 11th anniversary in May with The Fabulous Monsters, Noel Alumit, Tim Miller and others. Bravo Highways! Speaking of Tim: he has stepped down as co-AD of Highways to tour with Glory Box and fight for immigrant rights for binational GL couples. Danielle Brazel will carry on as Ad. Bravo Tim! Break A Leg Danielle! 310-315-1459

Sarasota: The 13th Annual Community AIDS Network benefit was held in April with Garry Allan Breul and a host of volunteers making it a big success. Garry is also organizing a benefit of Quilt in October, 2000 for Bethesda House. He is also producing a Play reading Association with PWAs and is looking for good material for PWAs about PWAs, Contact via Purple Circuit or beargar@hotmail.com(Garry Breul)

Scottsdale: Essential Theatre of Arizona presented two Playback Theatre productions. In April it was Incredible Stories and in May Gay And Lesbian Stories, All at Scottsdale Center of the arts; 480-994-ARTS.

West Hollywood: My Bitter Valentine 2 : More Love and Other Humiliations was held at the Coast Playhouse, in Mar.-Apr. 2000, with a slew of artists participating; 310-281-4775.

CHICAGO SCENE By Howard Casner

It is unfortunate that I must start this column by announcing the deaths of two stalwarts of Chicago gay theatre: George Busse and Nathan Rankin. Busse was one of the oldest living gay actors in Chicago and an important fixture of the local cultural scene. Rankin was finishing a stint as Roy Cohn in Kushner's Angels in America when he fell ill. He will be remembered for his roles in such plays as Just Say No, Boys in the Band and About Face Theatre's adaptation of Dancer from the Dance.

This year, Bailiwick Repertory's PRIDE SERIES begins with a party and ends with a Party. Opening ceremonies start May 15 when Bailiwick hosts a benefit that will present the PRIDE 2000 TRAIL-BLAZER Awards, honoring five outstanding leaders for their contributions to such areas as sports and the arts. Recipients are

Canadian Olympic Champion Mark Tewksbury, playwright Claudia Allen, journalist Lawrence Bommer, attorney Michael C. Cook and historian Marie Kuda. The evening will also host a reading of the first known gay play to be performed in Chicago (1896), At Saint Judas's by Henry Blake Fuller.

This year, PRIDE 2000 (titled "Celebrating The Past, Introducing the Future") will include 7 world premieres, 6 regional premieres, 1 American premiere and 1 grand revival (no word yet on the French hens, turtledoves or partridge in a pear tree). Performances include everything from Oscar Wilde time tripping back to Elizabethan England in order to discover who Shakespeare intended some of those sonnets for; to a baring all on the controversial subject of barebacking; to an original opera about two women in 19th century America.

Titles are as follows (and there will be a test afterwards): Blair Fell's Naked Will; Brian Kirst's Bare; Jon Henri Damski's Angels Into Dust: The New Town Diaries (adapted by Fred Anzevino); Jeffrey Solomon's MotherSON; Gina Schien's Relative Comfort; Howard Casner's Endless Night, Sweet Delight; Holly Hughes' Preaching to the Converted; the Five Lesbian Brothers' Brave Smiles...Another Lesbian Tragedy; Christopher McMorris' A Real Read in Jeopardy; Perry Laylon Ojeda's The Trick; Glidden and Rigby's Workout!; Scott Heckman's Sir; Kimper and Persons' Patience and Sarah; Martin and Biello's Q; and last, but not least, a revival of David Dillon's international hit comedy Party, where we learn the definitive difference between an original cast recording and soundtrack.

About Face Theatre followed their production of Dancer From the Dance and their late night smash Xena Live! with the controversial Four, by Christopher Shinn. Soon up is a production/performance piece by the innovative and exciting Mary Zimmerman: Eleven Rooms of Proust. In this go around, audience members will be guided through a 90,000 square foot warehouse space to view scenes and images inspired by Marcel Proust's weighty tome Remembrance of Things Past. About Face will then conclude their season with the return of their popular About Face Youth Theatre.

Also lighting the lights, or soon to be: Tony Kushner's outtakes from Angels in America: Slavs by European Repertory Co., opens in connection with About Face Theatre; college grads move to Chicago, fall in love and/or get laid in McCall and McGaughey's Sound of One at National Pastime Theatre; Robert Patrick does a four-way with productions of Fog, Sit-Com, Pouf Positive and Evan on Earth, a joint production of Great Beast Theatre Co. and theatreQ; 30 queer plays in 60 minutes (sounds like some people's sex lives I know) ready, set, goes at the Neo-Futurists Gay and Lesbian Pride Edition; Porchlight Productions switches on its hit production of Falsettos as a revival at The Chicago Park District's Theater on the Lake; Rick Karlin's Spin Cycle gets put through the wringer (sorry, but they can't all be gems) at Phoenix Ascending; Joe Orton's Loot steals (ditto) raves at Writers' Theatre.

And what column would be complete without my department of self-aggrandizement: a very successful production of three of my one-acts (A Little Lear and Laundry, A Misreading of Camus and A Little Lear and Laundry) just concluded a run here in Chicago under the title Random Acts: Three Tales From Boystown. The plays received fantastic reviews and excellent crowds. Those interested in more info can contact me, HowardCasner, at 773-871-7860 or hcasner@leydig.com.

A CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE Entertainment News by Gerald Semas

London's Royal National Theatre production of **Martin Sherman's** (Bent) new play Rose moved across the sea to

Broadway's Lincoln Center Theater in April. Academy Award-winner **Olympia Dukakis**, got the lead role for show's eight and a half week run at the Lyceum Theatre. *** **Michael Crawford** (Phantom of the Opera) has signed to star in **Cameron Mackintosh's** stage version of the film The Witches of Eastwick. Scheduled to reach the London's Theatre Royal on June 13, 2000, the production will feature Crawford as the devilishly evil Darryl Van Horne, played by Jack Nicholson in the movie. **Lucy Arnaz** will play one of the trio of women who find themselves captivated by Darryl's charms. ***

Rocky Horror Show alumni **Tim Curry** will play one of the bad guys (of course) in the upcoming motion picture remake of Charlie's Angels. Curry wasn't interested in the role until his close friend, **Robert Harling**, was brought in to do some script doctoring and made Tim's part big enough to become more appealing. *** A CD drawing on the New York City revue, Confidentially, Cole, which celebrates Cole Porter's more naughty and passionate songs, has been released. The fall 1999 show offered such underground Porter tunes as "Love For Sale," "I'm a Gigolo," "Let's Misbehave" and the more obscure "In Chelsea Somewhere" and "To Love or Not to Love," among others. *** **Mel Brooks'** long-awaited Broadway musical version of his comedy The Producers is closer to a debut. Tony Award winner **Nathan Lane** has signed on for the role of Broadway producer Max Bialystock. Rumors say **Martin Short** is close to signing on to play neurotic accountant Leo Bloom, the role played by **Gene Wilder** in the film version. ***

The new Sesame Street parody, Avenue Q: Children's Television for Twentysomethings will had a staged reading, hosted by Manhattan's York Theatre Company May 8. Composer-lyricists **Robert Lopez** and **Jeff Marx** are uncertain if their musical piece would benefit best from becoming a TV pilot or an off-Broadway project. Songs in Avenue Q include "If You Were Gay," "Tear It Up and Throw It Away" (about being called to jury duty) and "There is Life Outside Your Apartment." ***

Continuing their winning streak from Beauty and the Beast and The Lion King, Disney is in high speed to develop their next musical stage hit. **Matthew Bourne** has been hired to helm a Broadway production of Disney's The Little Mermaid. That's quite a switch for the man who created the acclaimed all-male production of Swan Lake.

Bed, Boys and Beyond, a gay-themed musical revue was extended through June at NY's Duplex Cabaret in the Village. The show is an expanded version of All Male Lives of Y2-Gay, a piece performed at the 1999 New York International Fringe Festival. Press Releases on the production offer a cliché ridden description stating that it explores the lives of five gay men searching for love, understanding and community in the post-closet era. What's that mean in English? ***

Eyes Wide Shut is how you could describe **Rupert Everett** doing love scenes with co-star **Nicole Kidman** in the movie version of Everybody Was So Young: Gerald and Sara Murphy. A Lost Generation Love Story. The duo would play an expatriate married couple in the **John Guare** (Six Degrees of Separation) adaptation. **Gus Van Sant** (My Own Private Idaho) has chosen the film Finding Forrester as his next project. The picture will star Oscar winners **Anna Paquin**, **F. Murray Abraham** and **Sean Connery** in the story of a young black man and his difficulty fitting in at an all-white prep school. Paquin will play his love interest, while Connery and Abraham will play his competing mentors. ***

Mass Appeal author, **Bill C. Davis'** new play Avow, explores the troubles in a relationship between two gay men. One of is a hard-core Catholic who jeopardizes their union when he takes the advice of a Priest and chooses to become celibate. You could call that 'Limited Appeal.' The production will open soon at Off-Broadway's Century Center Theatre. *** **Alanis Morissette** made her Broadway debut in **Eve Ensler's** The Vagina Monologues in March at NY's Westside Theater. **Claire Danes** joined the production in April and the wife of New York City Mayor **Rudolph Giuliani** will join the cast on May 30. There is no truth to the rumor that a sequel is in the works called The Penis Poems. ***

The 3rd Annual Feygelah Schmeygelah: An Evening of Queer Jewish Humor was held in May, 2000 at The Herbst Theatre in San Francisco. Part of the evening was a benefit for That's A Family, a new documentary about alternative families. Appearing were Jason Stuart, Julie Goldman, Page Hurwitz and Rabbi Sydney Mintz and hosted by Lisa Geduldig.

Jerry Durand has been providing info on comedy in the Bay area since the demise of Josie's Cabaret. Shows have been held Monday nights at Piaf's with different hosts and comics. To get on the Qcomedy list, email jdurand@interstellar.com

OutMedia's Queer Riot Tour hit New England appearing at Rainbow Millenium, The 6th NE Regional GLBT Student Leadership Conference and the Boston Comedy Festival. Shows were also at Maine Center for the arts, and Emerson College. Tour included Jason Stuart(he is everywhere!), Rob Nash, Julie Goldman. For info on OutMedia and their artists, contact Shelly Weiss at OUTMedia@msn.com or 718-789-1776.

Jason Stuart will also appear at the Montreal Comedy Festival on July 16, 2000; LA Gay Pride on June 10; San Diego Gay Pride, July 22; Maine Street Cafe Aug 4-6 in Olinguit Maine; Nov 4 at Village in Hollywood in Black Women Gay Men ... Same Thing Girlfriend; and Nov 7-11 at Acme Comedy in Minneapolis. MN.www.jasonstuart.com, Manager: Damon Frank, 310-860-1210.

The Talent Show at Dixon Place, NYC hosted by Greg Walloch featured artists at the forefront of comedy. Greg's company is Cultural Media Icons, 917-544-1894, gregwdt@ix.netcom.com

Lauren Crux performed at Venue 9 in San Francisco in April, 2000 in a piece about beige.

America's Most Wanted was a hilarious evening of sketch comedy featuring the comic talents of Michael Caldwell, Michael Erger, Bob Rumnock, Rachel Winfree, Victoria Delaney, Sarah Fairfax and Wendy Worthington at the Angels Theatre in Los Angeles.

Girl meets Boyfriend is stand up comedy featuring Women and Gay Men at The Duplex, NYC in June, 2000. Performing were Greg Walloch, William Mullin, Jessica Kirson, Deke Haylon, Lisa Landry, Leighanne Lord and Deidre Sullivan.

Tribes 2000 is a comedy tradition that began 14 years ago in Columbus, Ohio of Gay and Lesbian sketch comedy. This June, original creators Dee Shepherd and Frank A Barnhart are joined by 6 other prominent local performers at Out On Main Upstairs; 614-263-9448.

DANCE / MUSIC

Spirit Dances 2 with the Crones was a celebration of life conceived by Marion Scott. The event was at Highways in May, 2000.

Purple Moon Dance Company presented Spring Cleaning in March in San Francisco. AD Jill Togawa collaborates with dancers Alena Cawthorne, Judith Dancer, Julie Mau and Arisika Razak. Also appearing were students from Purple Moon's Artist in Residence program with Women and Children's Family Services; 415-552-1105.

Brian Gross' solo project Test Tube Baby has four albums available at www.mp3.com/testtubebaby. The group APOCRYPHO has a debut album called Spiritual Cannibal from ADSR Musicwerks of Seattle. They appear live in Anaheim in June. Check out Brian's website at www.briangross.web.com

Lots of music at LA's hit venue for the arts: The Village At Ed Gould Plaza in Hollywood. In Feb they presented 3 Women: A Tribute to the Divas Of Jazz and The Blues starring Sweet Baby J'ai and Zoe Lewis and Her Band and Jamie Anderson, singer and songwriter appeared in Mar 2000.

Craig Rubano was live in concert during Feb-Mar at the Laurie Beechman Theatre in NYC with Finishing The Act: Act One Finales From Broadway. The CD is available at music outlets and www.craigrubano.com/cd/buycd.html

Fire was a free concert by San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom band in March conducted by Jadine Louie. Earth! their June 11 concert will feature a preview of a new work by Jennifer Higdon,

Freedom Dreams, her overture celebrating GLBT families. The full work will premiere July 4 at the Alternative family picnic at Yerba Buena Gardens.

Lee Lessack appeared at the Cinegrill in Hollywood in Feb, 2000 and gave a great performance.

The original cast album of New Line Theatre's (St Louis) Out On Broadway is available on CD at music stores and from Original Cast Records; 203-544-8288 or www.newlinetheatre.com

New Line recently did Out On Broadway 2000 in Mar-Apr, 2000.

Gay Men's Chorus had April concerts titled With A Mighty Voice. Their next concert is July 14-16, 2000 at Alex Theatre in Glendale called Oz And Beyond followed by Let Freedom Sing July 21,2000.

Vox Femina, Los Angeles Women's Chorus will be in concert at Zipper Auditorium on June 24, 2000.

FILM / VIDEO

The Moondance International Film Festival is by and for Women. Screenplays and Stageplays are among the genres. Entries accepted through October 1, 2000. For further info go to moondancefilmfestival.com

Reverse Negative is a newsbreaking screenplay ala Hitchcock with same-sex marriage politics shattering the lives of one woman and two men. Contact Laurie Oehler, Financial Services Liaison, Lee College, Baytown TX; 281-425-6234.

AIDS Healthcare Foundation presented "The Best Bette" a 50th anniversary screening of All About Eve at the American Cinematique's Egyptian Theatre in March, 2000.

Allan Gassman's documentary The O Boys: Parties, Porn & Politics won an award from Adult Video News despite not having a distributor. The film was screened at Highways, Santa Monica in April, 2000 as well as Mardi Gras in Sydney, Melbourne and London. Interested distributors contact Gassmana@aol.com or 323-953-4742; gaywired.com/oboy

Urbania by Jordan Beswick stars Dan Futterman and just premiered at Sundance 2000 and is director Jon Shear's first film.

LITERARY SCENE

A recent French biography has established Jacques Prevert as the best-loved poet of the 20th century. Eric Bentley's recording, The Queen Of 42 nd St (Smithsonian-Folkways) has taken in the American version a homoerotic turn ...

Merlin Holland is working on an updated and expanded edition of Oscar Wilde's letters due for publication in November, 2000. We asked Eric Bentley what single book most influenced him when he wrote his celebrated play, Lord Alfred's Lover and he replied "well of course, Oscar's letters which at this time means The Letters Of Oscar Wilde edited by Rupert Hart-Davis, Harcourt, Brace and World, 1962.

TCG is updating Dramatists Sourcebook for 2000-01 as we speak. The Purple Circuit has an entry listing.

Book readings at Skylight Books in Los Feliz area of Los Angeles were Fabulous Hell by Craig Curtis, and coming up June 23 Nancy Agabian reading from Princess Freak; 323-660-1175.

Zoetrope All Story Magazine is soliciting one-act plays according to David Zak, AD of Bailiwick for a Fall issue. For further info :Info@all-story.com, www.zoetrope-stories.com, 1350 Ave. of the Americas, 24th floor, NY, NY 10019. Mention Bailiwick sent you.

Odd Girls Press is seeking submissions for a literary Lesbian Winter Holiday Anthology. Deadline is June 30, 2000, www.OddGirlsPress.com

Playwright Paul Harris' book The Queer Press Guide 2000 (ISBN 1891305174) has gone to a second printing and has been nominated for a Lambda Literary Award. An expanded edition will be published in September, 2000.

Contact T'N'T Books about Jane Chambers and other plays at shelleyft@aol.com

Dramatic Publishing has published some of Jack Heifner's plays including Comfort And Joy, Boys' Play and Heartbreak. www.dramaticpublishing.com

An updated and expanded version of John M Clum's Still Acting Gay has recently been published by St. Martin's Press

The first Literary Exchange Wimmen of Color Writers Competition was announced this year with winners to be announced at a conference in Chicago on May 6, 2000.

ourpress.com is a royalty paying publisher new electronic press recently launched. They are accepting submissions in many categories including stageplays and GL material. Contact them for further info before sending anything! stormy@portland.quik.com or ourpress.com, Attn: Stormy, PO Box 86219, Portland OR 97286.

Paul Harris has a new book coming out April, 2001 called Producing Your Own Showcase. His deadline is July 31,2000 and is interested in interviewing those who have self-produced. Please email at PHARRIS825@aol.com

Parabasis, the journal of A.S.K. Theater Projects in the Spring 2000 issue mentions Center Stage, a group focusing on plays with Lesbian Themes and provocative theater that promotes social change, 8305 Shadbush Ave, Las Vegas NV 89149; 702-396-7422. Parabasis can be reached at info@askplay.org

Published first in 1997 is The Five Lesbian Brothers' Guide to Life with illustrations by Donna Evans from Fireside Books. The well-known Lesbian theatre troupe offers helpful hints for today's Gay Girl!

The Purple Circuit will also be listed in the Annual Dramatists Guild Resource Directory.

PLAYWRIGHTS / PRODUCERS FORUM

KEY WEST by Jack Heifner was a hit in Richmond and San Francisco. It's available through agent Bret Adams at BADamsLtd@aol.com

John Corig's play BIG BILL about tennis star Bill Tilden is gearing up for a January,2001 production in Oregon.What about productions in San Francisco,other parts of California and elsewhere? 323-581-0359.

Sidney Morris has a full catalog of plays for production including his classic IF THIS ISN'T LOVE, THE GOOD TIME BOYS and THE MAGIC FORMULA. The Playwright will donate his royalties to the local AIDS group of theatre's choice. Contact the playwright at #30D, 475 West 57 St., NY, NY 10019.

Circle Rising are 12 playwrights from a 1997 workshop that Paula Vogel conducted sponsored by A.S.K. Theater Projects in Los Angeles. They had a Festival of their works at the Zephyr Theatre in February, 2000. Among the talented writers are Jake Jay Clark, Monica Palacios, and Victor Lodato.

The talented director/producer Garry Allan Breul has organized a play reading group for PWAs at Bethesda House in Sarasota which hopes to tour the area. If have appropriate material or for further information contact beargar@hotmail.com

Richard Willet's fascinating play, TRIPTYCH has just finished its second run in New York and was awarded a production grant from the Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation. The play also ran in Houston in March and April, 2000. His play, PUBLIC SPEAKING has been chosen for the Play Lab at 9th Annual Edward Albee Theater Conference in Valdez, Alaska, 212-628-6186, richard.willet2@gte.net

Paul Harris' LETTERS FROM AFAR has been selected for the Unity Festival this summer in NYC. The play is made up of letters between two men over 35 years. Contact: PHarris825@aol.com

Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts in San Francisco has joined with the Artist Alliance Against AIDS in "The Alchemy Project" for emerging playwrights to develop short works addressing HIV and AIDS as the world transitions into the 21st century. The Project will do workshops and performances and is open to Bay area residents; 415-554-0402; director@jonsimsctr.org

Joseph Pazillo has written EQUAL TIME exploring the controversy over the medical establishment's HIV-AIDS hypothesis and the conventional view and treatment of AIDS. Contact at Joseph.Pazillo@moodys.com

Dennis Safren and Dan W Davis' OFFSIDES had a staged reading recently at The Milwaukee Rep.

A.S.K Theater Projects sponsored two Labs this Spring. One was led by Playwright Lee Blessing and the other by Deborah Margolin, co-founder of Split Britches. A.S.K. does many great things for playwrights and audience to encourage new work. Contact them at 310-478-3200, www.askplay.org

Michel Corbeil's one-act play I'M NINETEEN AGAIN was staged read by Bravo Theatre Productions and by the Salt and Pepper Mime Company. His one-act play THE OLDEST GAY IN AMERICA was stage read by the Stageplays Theatre Company; 212-663-3209 or corveil@aol.com

Jack Heifner's play Key West has been a success wherever it has been produced mostly recently in San Francisco and Richmond. Contact agent Bret Adams at BAdamsLtd@aol.com or the playwright at JFHeifner@aol.com

Parts III and IV of Rob Nash's Holy Cross Quadrilogy: Junior Blues and Senioritis were performed by the playwright (it is a solo show with mutiple characters) at New York Theatre Workshop in March. For more info or to book Rob contact: Shelly Weiss, OUTmedia@msn.com, 718-789-1776, www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/8517

Samantha Gellar, the young Lesbian playwright from Charlotte has been awarded a Youth Activist Scholarship by the ACLU. In addition she will be the youngest person ever honored by the ACLU of North Carolina. Her play Life Versus The Paperback Romance was one of the five winners in the Charlotte Young Playwrights Festival. The Festival refused to produce the play but with help from Time Out Youth and Holly Hughes and the NY arts community a reading of the play was done at The Public last June with a celebrity cast. Brava Samantha!

Too Old For The Chorus which was done at Celebration Theatre last year and well received as a piece about aging in general and in our community in particular has been optioned for New York!

Linda Eisenstein's seriocomic monologue The Cassandra Complex was done as part of the Alleyway Theatre's Buffalo Quickies Festival in May ,2000. Her Marla's Devotion had a NYC production as part of Muse of Fire's Sirens Festival in May at the Flatiron Theatre. Marla's Devotion will also be performed at the LunaSea Women's Performance Project in San Francisco, July 21-23, Aug 35, 2000. Her new full length play Rehearsing Cyrano had a successful premiere run at Wesleyan College in Macon GA. Lots of swordplay, gender-bending and music.

OPPORTUNITIES / TOURING

Project: Alice a great reconstruct of Alice In Wonderland with The Fabulous Monsters is available in a lean clean cast of 6, Producers contact Mark Compton at 818-409-9136 or Mark.Compton@usa.net. Don't Miss Booking this Show!

Michael Kearns teaches a lively acting class Sunday nights in Silver Lake. Check it out at 323-856-6168. Michael is available also as a Producer, Fundraiser and Event Planner in the areas of the Arts, Children, GL, Youth, HIV/AIDS and the Homeless, mkla@aol.com He also has a fabulous cabin to rent this summer in Idyllwild.

Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles is seeking a new Artistic Director. Credentialed applicants should submit resumes and support materials to Search Committee c/o Celebration Theatre, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd, PMB 109-1, Los Angeles, CA 90046. No phone calls please.

Upstart Theatre Company, a young New York theater company, has an ingenious way of raising funds for their new season-they are auctioning online signed scripts from some of America's greatest playwrights -- Arthur Miller, Tony Kushner, Emily Mann, and many more. Check the site; www.onepunch.com/upst/auction.htm

Purple Circuit Newsletter

Please make checks payable to:
Bill Kaiser
921 N. Naomi St.
Burbank, CA 91505

Here's 20 bucks for OTPC for a year

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Frank Wedekind (left) is the author of the famous play "Spring's Awakening" which Eric Bentley (right) recently did an English version of. It has a Gay ingredient possibly the first in European drama, the date was 1891), but it is essentially about the onset of puberty in 14 year olds of whatever orientation. Unfortunately it has up to now, always been acted by college students who perforce enacted a different drama: that of early manhood. Eric is appealing to those of our readers who teach in highschools to get the play done THERE, and not leave it 'til college...Rights from Samuel French in Hollywood or New York,script published by Applause Theatre Books.

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation

continues to accept applications from all theatrical and musical producing organizations for grants to help with Gay-positive productions based on historical subjects.

The AaBB Foundation is also holding a full-length Fiction competition for 2000 with cash awards of \$1000. For production or writing guidelines send a SASE to our new address:

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation
PMB 503, 31855 Date Palm Drive, #3
Cathedral City, CA 92234

or see our Web site at: www.aabbfoundation.org

How To Reach Us The Purple Circuit

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